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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of:

Anthony B. Troutt

Docket No.: 2623-B

Serial No.: --to be assigned--

Group Art Unit: Unknown

Filing Date: January 20, 2000

Examiner: Unknown

For: METHOD OF REGULATING NITRIC OXIDE PRODUCTION

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX PATENT APPLICATION  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification, page 1, line 6, by inserting after the phrase "This application" the following phrase --is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial number 08/978,773, filed November 26, 1997, which --.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-2 and 7-12. Amend the following claim:

4. (Amended) The composition according to claim 3, wherein the soluble IL-17 receptor is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a protein comprising amino acids 1 through 322 of SEQ ID NO.:2;  
(b) a protein comprising amino acids 1 through 320 of SEQ ID NO.:4;  
(c) a protein having an amino acid sequence that is at least about 70% identical to the amino acid sequences of the proteins of (a) or (b) as determined by using the GAP computer program at default parameters, and that binds IL-17; and  
(d) fragments of the proteins of (a), (b), or (c), that bind IL-17.